

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Paul W. Watt

Serial No. :

Art Unit:

Filed :

Examiner:

For : METHODS FOR MAKING BIOPOLYMER SPONGE TUBES

Pre / A
5
NDB
11-1-01

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This patent application is division patent application based on USSN 09/164,793, filed October 1, 1998 now under appeal. The following amendments are requested to be entered.

In the Specification:

At page 1, line 3, please add: ✓

"Related Patent Applications

This patent application is a divisional patent application of USSN 09/164,793, filed October 1, 1998."

✓
In the claims, please cancel claims 1-25 and add new claims: ✓

26. (New) A method for producing biopolymer sponges comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing an aqueous dispersion of the biopolymer;
 - (b) introducing the dispersion into a mold;
 - (c) freezing the dispersion to provide a shaped frozen dispersion;
 - (d) heating the mold and releasing the shaped frozen dispersion from the mold;
 - and
 - (e) drying the released frozen dispersion.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

09887742 "062201"

a1

a2